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NOTES AND NEWS

Forthcoming Special Issues

By decision of the Executive Committee of the Society of Christian Philosophers, the October 2005 issue on the epistemology of religious experience (see below) will be the last in our annual series of special issues devoted to single topics. It is the committee's view that, in light of the number of volumes being published devoted to essays on selected topics, the special issues are less needed now than has previously been the case. This change will permit us to publish a greater number of submitted articles. There will still be the option, at the discretion of the editor, of publishing symposia on selected topics from time to time.

Topic: The Epistemology of Religious Experience

Date: October 2005

Advisory Editor: William P. Alston

Deadline for Submission: January 1, 2005

In the broadest sense, "religious experience" encompasses any experiences that occur in the religious life, including feelings of awe, reverence, guilt and so on, as well as felt impulses to holiness or aversions to what one takes to be contrary to the divine will, and much more. But the epistemology of religious experience is concerned with experiences that have been thought of to have an epistemic significance, to constitute grounds or evidence for religious beliefs. Hence its focus is on experiences that are taken by their subjects to be an experiential awareness of the presence, nature, or activity of God, or other object of religious worship. The central issue here is whether the experiences that are taken to have this epistemic import actually do so. Papers submitted for this issue should have a bearing of one sort or another on this issue. A paper could address questions about the variety, classification, or phenomenology of these kinds of religious experiences, but only if this is related to the central epistemological issue. Papers dealing with the experiential epistemology of Christian religious belief are specially encouraged, but the issue is not restricted to them.

*Conferences*Captured By The Crucified: A Conference and Spiritual Life Workshop
Celebrating Austin Farrer's Lived Theology

Date: In the Centenary Year of Farrer's Birth, November 4-7, 2004,
Place: The St. James Center for Spiritual Formation, A Program of
St. James Episcopal Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Call for Presentations: Presentations are solicited on the practical spiritual import of Austin Farrer's theology as developed in sermons, devotional books, biblical studies, and theological and philosophical essays. Presentations on the work of such friends of Farrer as Dorothy L. Sayers, Charles Williams, C. S. Lewis, Charles Williams, Eric Mascall, Michael Ramsey, and Basil Mitchell will also be considered.

Part I of the program will be devoted to the critical, scholarly exploration and interpretation of the practical theological dimensions of Farrer's work and that of his friends. Part II of the program will be a spiritual life or faith and life workshop putting Farrer's work and words to work in the life of faith. It will combine devotional presentations with spiritual exercises: reflection, discussion, the labyrinth, music, solitary prayer, and corporate worship. Participants may register for either of the two parts or for both. Part II needs no prior familiarity with Farrer's works and should be valuable for all who seek a deeper spiritual life.

For more information about the program, for information about, and to register online visit www.stjamescsf.org Presentations of both types, thirty minutes or fewer, should be submitted to:

Edward Henderson
St. James Center for Spiritual Formation
St. James Episcopal Church
P.O. BOX 126
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
or e-mailed to: ehender@lsu.edu